

'the American democratic ideal is Brahminism
in manner^
and taste, not in sympathies and ideas/

Abraham Lincoln's democracy was so
essential and virile
that it would not have lost in any way if he
had had the
manners and tastes of Lowell. One can like
to see the
White House restored by McKim, and our gold
modeled by Saint-Gaudens, without the least
abatement
the feeling of being one of Abraham Lincoln's
plain people
and of keenest sympathy with, admiration for
and desire
to represent, them.

OYSTER BAY,
July 20, 1907.

To Brahder Matthews: What delightful
reading Lang*
always is! Your letter, with his essay on the
America**
President of the future, was sandwiched in
this morning"
between internal politics and our relations
with Japan ;
and I appreciated the diversion. Who but
Lang could
write with such genuine humor, and be so
amusing, and yet
leave no sting behind?

By the way, I wish Lang would tell me if
there really
is an * Aryan' race; Aryan speech, yes; Aryan
race—well,
I am v ery doubtful.

Three letters to John Burroughs, whom he
always ad-
dressed as "Oom John," display his keen
delight in study-
ing bird and animal life:

OYSTER BAY,
June 22, 1907.

I hope you know what a pleasure it was to
have you and
Childs out here the other day, and I am so
glad that the*
purple finch, the black-throated warbler and
the red-winged
blackbird all behaved like gentlemen and

turned up as I had
said they would.

OYSTER BAY,
July 11, 1907.

Yesterday we cut that fine clover, which I
horrified you
by walking about in while looking for that
redwing black-